service proxies 112, 124 preferably will be configured to collect system information on the operating system, installed patches and applications, hardware, and the like and to transfer this information to the service

5     manager. The service provider system 100 includes a service information store 188 with memory for storing the customer system information 196 obtained by the service manager 160.

The service manager 160 may further be adapted to

10    store service requests and other information obtained from clients in a service history database 196 in store 188. For example, it may be useful to track which services have been requested by particular clients for use in future service selections or to provide directed

15    marketing of new services as they become available.

The service manager 160 further includes a service selection tool 180 for matching the service request received from the client system 104, 116 with one of the available services proxies 184. This matching may

20    involve filtering the available services proxies 184 based on methods or functions included in the service request. A listing of the matching services may then be provided to the client or alternatively, the most closely matching service proxy 184 may be transferred to the

25    client system 104, 116 automatically. Instead of waiting for a service request, the service manager 160 may operate to evaluate previously gathered customer system information 192 and services history data 196 to recommend services to client systems 104, 116. Such

30    recommendation may be performed as new service proxies 184 are registered or simply on a periodic basis selected

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